

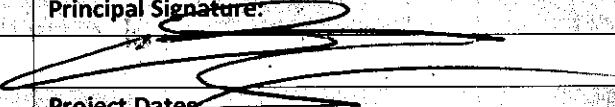
SUBMIT TOP FIVE/TEN PROJECT ENTRIES NO LATER THAN **FEBRUARY 13, 2018**



**TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT COUNCILS
TASC TOP TEN PROJECTS COMPETITION**

HIGH SCHOOL

ENTRY COVER SHEET

School Name:	School UIL Classification:
Bel Air High School	2-5A
School Address:	Size of Community:
731 North Yarbrough	679,000
City/State:	Zip:
El Paso, Texas	79915
School Phone:	School Fax:
915.434.2000	915.593.6117
Advisor Name:	Advisor E-Mail:
Sylvia McMinn	smcminn@yisd.net
Principal Name:	Principal Signature:
Mr. Charlie Garcia	
Project Name:	Project Dates:
Battle of the Boot	November 2, 2018
Total Number of Students in Council:	Number of Members Involved in Project:
35	35
Total Number of Students Enrolled in School:	Number of Other Students Involved in Project:
1950	600
Total Number of Faculty Enrolled in School	Number of Faculty Involved in Project
150	Approximately 80
Number of Community Groups Involved in Project	Number of Community Members Involved in Project
4 (Bel Air HS, Eastwood HS, local MDA, El Paso Firefighters)	Approximately 30

THIS INFORMATION MUST BE SUBMITTED ONLINE.

Top Ten entries must be submitted by **FEBRUARY 13, 2019**

This application must be submitted online via the TASC website.
Upload your photos, newspaper articles, etc. online as well. Scan all pages into one document and upload.

Please consider presenting a table talk (HS) on your project for extra points. You must apply to do that.

Bel Air High School

Battle of the Boot

Purpose and Objectives: To raise money for and awareness of the Muscular Dystrophy Association

Description: Bel Air Student Council united with one of our staunchest rivals to work together to raise money and awareness for the El Paso Chapter of the Muscular Dystrophy Association at the annual Battle of the Helmet game between Bel Air High School and Eastwood High School. Students from both schools walked through the stands with firefighter boots collecting money from fans from both schools. During the collection, every time a \$20 bill was donated, the horns were blown and the sirens were set off from two fire trucks parked by the field. At the end of the night, over \$924 was collected for a great cause. To promote the event, the councils had shirts made with the Battle of the Helmet image on the front. The back of the shirt had the traditional firefighter flag with axes, one in red for Bel Air and one in blue for Eastwood.

Involvement with:

- a) **Student Council Members:** Student Council Members began promoting the event one week prior to the game through social media postings, announcements and flyers. They also worked during the game to help collect money and pass out information to attendees.
- b) **Other students:** Student from both schools learned about the neuromuscular diseases through continuous announcements made during the game.
- c) **Other organizations:** Cheerleaders, drill teams and JROTC groups worked to collect money from the crowd in the firefighter boots. They then helped to count all the money that was collected.
- d) **Faculty:** Faculty members also learned about the MDA and how they assist our community. They also accompanied the students that were collecting money throughout the game.
- e) **Community:** Firefighters from area stations attended the game to distribute information and help collect money from the crowd with our students. They also intensified the competition with a friendly game of tug-of-war during halftime!



Muscular Dystrophy Association
mda.org

February 12, 2019

Texas Association of Student Councils,

I am contacting you on behalf of Bel Air High School and Local 51 to share our story of how the students of Bel Air High School led by their student body President Leonard Biagad helped supplement our El Paso Firefighters MDA 2018 Fill the Boot® campaign.

For over 50 years, the El Paso Association of Fire Fighters, IAFF Local 51 has supported MDA's mission to help kids and adults living with neuromuscular diseases live longer and grow stronger. This year as in other years the El Paso Fire Department partners with our local MDA office to make this event a success.

Funds raised through the 2018 El Paso Fill the Boot Drive stay in the area to help support MDA's efforts to fund groundbreaking research to uncover treatments and support for more than 180 families. These funds also help send some amazing kids to a weeklong, barrier-free MDA Summer Camp at Manzano Mountain Retreat in Torreon, NM.

Back in October of 2018 I was contacted by Mr. Biagad and Mrs. McMinn of Bel Air wanting to participate in assisting the El Paso Fire Department in fund raising for any charity of our choice. Naturally we elected to go with MDA since we have partnered with them for well over 50 years. This fund raiser was a way for the outgoing seniors from two rival schools (Bel Air H.S./Eastwood H.S.) to come together and make a difference in their community and hopefully start a new tradition. After meeting and planning our event I had no reservations that this event would not be successful. The energy and enthusiasm the students displayed in the planning and execution of the plan was heartwarming. Thru their efforts we were able to collect \$920 in just 15 minutes! Word of our efforts quickly spread to different MDA offices nationwide. Because of these two rival schools a new idea was born. I believe it is safe to say a "New Tradition" started by these two schools will be played out nationwide with countless high schools, MDA offices and local Fire Departments! All involved deserve to be recognized for their efforts!

Best regards,

Rick Flores Parliamentarian

IAFF Local 51

Flores1061@gmail.com



kborn@mdausa.org

office 915.584.6355
fax 915.584.6399

5400 Suncrest Dr. Suite A-5
El Paso, TX 79912



BEL AIR HIGH SCHOOL

731 Yarbrough
El Paso, Texas 79915
(915) 434-2005

February 2019

Dear Texas Association of Student Councils:

I have been involved with Student Councils and Student Council projects for over thirty years. During that time, I have seen a wide variety of Student Council projects. Many of them are very similar - clothing drives, Thanksgiving baskets and those types of projects. They are important and provide good community service, however, they are not very original. Once in a great while a student or a Student Council comes up with a truly creative and original project. This year the Bel Air Student Council did that. They came up with a project that brought rival schools together for a common cause and for the greater good of the El Paso Community. This year's "Battle of the Boot" was a creative, impactful and memorable project. It had an immediate impact and brought unity to two schools which have had a long term, and often heated rivalry.

Inspiration: Every year for MDA, local fire fighters collect money at stop lights to support MDA. The Bel Air Student Council used this as inspiration and took it to a new level. Each year the Bel Air and Eastwood football teams play a game where the winning team gets to keep a helmet with all of the previous year's scores on it. The Battle of the Helmet has been played every year since 1964. Each and every year, no matter what the respective teams records are, it is a sold out game. This year the Bel Air Student Council added the "Battle of the Boot." At half time, Student Council members from both schools and members of the El Paso Fire Department went throughout the crowd collecting money in a red boot for Bel Air and a blue boot for Eastwood. During that twenty minute half time, almost a thousand dollars were collected to support MDA. In an effort to entertain and inspire the crowd the fire fighters from the stations in each school neighborhood had a tug of war contest.

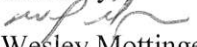
Outreach: Many Student Council projects involve only one school, this project was unique because it brought together two often bitter rivals to support a common cause. The students used the firefighters as a bridge between the two schools and were able to collect more money in less time than either school could have done on its own. This sense of community and unity benefited the community as a whole.

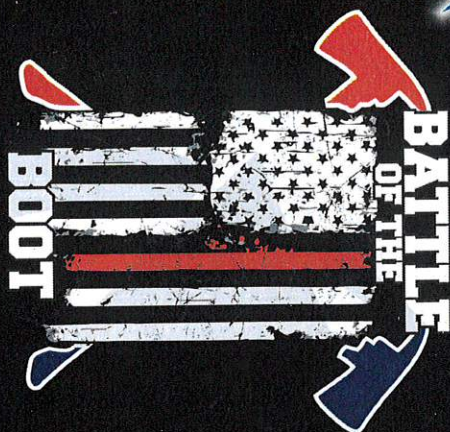
Impact: There was an immediate impact in that the MDA received a nearly one thousand-dollar donation. There will be a long term impact in that both schools agreed to make this an annual event. The Battle of the Helmet and the Battle of the Boot will now be one in the same. Other schools were inspired by this project and are adding it to their traditional rivalry game. It is the hope of the Bel Air Student Council that this will spread across El Paso and perhaps Texas or to our local universities.

This project deserves consideration for three reasons. First, it is practical and easy to replicate. Any school with the support of their local fire department can accomplish this. Second, it is a good way to bring two rival schools together for a common purpose and a common good. Lastly, it is a cause that everyone understands and can support.

This is a strong project because it takes the fire fighters "Fill the Boot" campaign from the streets and expands it onto the school campus. It helps reinforce the bonds between the local fire departments and the schools. Many of the firefighters who were involved in this campaign attended either Bel Air or Eastwood and many have even played in this traditional rivalry game.

Sincerely,


Wesley Mottinger
Assistant Principal
Bel Air High School



BEL AIR





